

London, Dec. 3, 1840. 6 Surin St. Place, Southwark Bridge.

My dear Anna, Yours of the 30th of Oct. was received the 24th of Ultimo for which you have my grateful acknowledgments. Would that I could be placed within the doors of 11 West St., this evening, & listen to all the marvellous things that have transpired since I left. Could I spend one hour with some score or two of those faithful, true, & tried friends whom I might name, one or two months more of banishment might be made tolerable. I never knew before what it was to be homesick. Had I visited England under any other auspices than Garrison abolitionism, with but one exception, & that is slavery, I should have been more cordially received. Even R. R. Gurley, of colonization memory, can gain a hearing among abolitionists, who treat me with comparative contempt. Nine tenths of the anti-slavery in this country ^{would be ready} to part company with us. Genuine abolitionism, in this country is situated, as Isaiah, the prophet described the daughter of Zion to be in, "desolate as a cottage in a vineyard, as a lodge in a garden of cucumbers, as a besieged city. Except the Lord of hosts had left us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom & we should have been like unto Gomorrah." Though the whole horizon is beleaguered, ^{with the exception of} ~~yet there is one~~ clear spot, no bigger than a man's hand, yet that will ultimately scatter, devour & annihilate the whole fog and smoke, consequent upon the influence of crafty priests & politicians, & bigoted & dishonest people.

I have put off writing, hoping from day to day to get something encouraging to write, but as yet, I have met with discouragement from almost every quarter, ^{there being} but my few indeed, who ^{feel} and care but very little about our American trials. Those friendly to our measures, on account of the great opposition they occasion, do ^{not} feel prepared to take sides openly, while those unfriendly spare neither money, time, nor pains to combat them in every form and shape, and as a general principle, either by means, foul or fair. I will make no apologies, however, for not writing, but will give you such information as I can upon this sheet, more or less.

As you have measured the waters of the Atlantic, I will pass over the history of my sea voyage by stating that the British Surin, the vessel in which I crossed, is a spacious, ~~new~~ ^{very} ship, with good berths, & fare and accommodations unequalled by the first hotels in Boston. Had on board between 80 & 90 passengers, most of whom were female, wine & eating grates near. Had head wind most of the voyage - encountered one severe gale, in which, we carried away some sails, broke in our deck lights & were under the necessity of putting the ship before the wind. Saw a brig with most of her sails set, topgallant mast carried away, spanker boom unshipped, top sails riddled, logged & forsaken; this brig in the middle of the ocean was a distressing spectacle & for four and twenty hours, cast a deep gloom & melancholy over all the inhabitants of our little kingdom. In 17 days from the time we left N. York we found our selves in the ancient harbor of Southampton, & the next morning found as in London, the distance by land being but about 60 miles.

Seventeen days of idleness and indulgence had produced such a change in my dimensions, that my clothing actually refused my mortal coil admission. So you may not be troubled to guess, to whom I first paid my respects. I next delivered my introductions to Dr. John Bowring & W. H. Ashurst. I found Bowring to be a gentleman, whose time was greatly occupied in governmental affairs but exceedingly interested & gave me a most cordial welcome, but as he is a political man, the circle in which he moves are so much interested in whig inform that they think and care but very little ^{about} negro emancipation in the U.S. But Ashurst I found to be a cold, selfish mortal & very indifferent to what, who, after about three minutes conversation intimating that his time was money, upon which, failing to interest him, bid him good morning & was off in a tangent. I called upon Prof. Adams, & though very limited in his influence from his short residence and limited acquaintance, rendered me every possible assistance in his power. He is one of the most able, zealous, inflexible & uncompromising abolitionists I have met with in all my intercourse with British Philanthropists. For his assistance, though ineffectual, the Am. Abolitionists are under great obligations to Mr. Adams. After spending better than a week in London, laboring with indefatigable zeal, in endeavoring to interest some leading characters, so as to be able to have a social meeting

The present Ministry have admitted the Independent of the Foreign Government. It does not create much disturbance. The British people are rejoicing in account of the birth of a prince. Bowring had written R. R. Gurley a very excellent letter & I want to forward it but, Birmer took one home with him and I presume it is put into his pocket before this. But you had dealt not with him.

for advice & succeeded in getting four together. Such jealous spirits & bitter enmities
 and tories & church men & dissenters, that it was thought inexpedient for either of the gentlemen
 composing my most august assemblage, to introduce me to Buxton, Cumey & al of that
 stamp, but advised me to visit Geo. Thompson, to whom I had previously forwarded my letter
 & on my road to Edinburgh I visited the Prades of Cordington. I found in Elizabeth a host of
 herself. To meet such a spirit in England, was like, to me, the porched Arabians of the burning desert
 lighting upon an oasis. In strength of intellect, freedom & enlargement of soul, liberality & in
 firmness of purpose, she ~~is~~ is inferior to but few of any of Garrison's daughters
 in the United States. She gave me fifty pounds. Her father is literally a man of one
 idea. British India is his hobby. It is with him, the universal panacea for all the
 ills flesh is heir to.

I next visited Harriet Martineau, as I proceeded to Edinburgh. I found her quite infirm
 though nothing so feeble as I had expected to find her. She remarked, in the commencement
 of our conversation, that she could not do any thing for me directly or indirectly
 as she had exhausted all her resources, both pecuniary & influential upon Kepp & Davis
 for the Oberlin. In fact I could not interest her in the subject. She would not be moved
 to believe that the salvation of our Society or the cause could be dependent upon a
 few thousand pounds. I have a letter from her, which you ^{can} judge for yourself.

Geo Thompson received me most cordially, and professed me every assistance in his power
 to enable me to succeed & was almost the only being who gave me the least encouragement.
 yet, ~~he~~ poor fellow, ^{had he} been acquainted with the parties then existing in his own adopted
 city to cripple his influence, he would have talked very differently. Stanton, Birney & Scoble
 to ~~be in~~ ^{Edinburgh} but the presence of Thompson & Remond greatly embarrassed them in their
 movements & so they resorted to stratagem to rid themselves of these two, whose influence they
 greatly feared. A committee meeting was called at which Thompson was invited, but Birney
 took quite his head to go out into the country to visit some Scottish scenery, so he pounced
 upon Thompson & Remond to attend him & meet Stanton & Scoble at Glasgow. They not discovering
 the trick, accepted, when the remaining two had full scope. They succeeded effectually, in poisoning
 their minds. When Thompson introduced ~~me~~ among the friends as a delegate from the American
 Anti Slavery Society, the question of Garrisonism was instantly raised, & when inquiries were made
 as to when & where they had received this information, Thompson discovered the trick. He then succeeded
 in getting a committee meeting, of the mens Society called, to have me give the other side of the story,
 but a day previous to the meeting, who should present himself, but that ignorant tool of Joseph
 Sluys, that Stuart, who is travelling the Kingdom, ostensibly to wake up the women, but really
 to split in New Organization & get the secretists to become auxiliary to the Br. F. Society. Stuart
 remarked that he made it his duty to enlighten the people, the first thing, on the subject of new
 and old organization. I think him the greatest ignoramus, on this subject, I ever met with.
 He knows just as much about the Am. Controversy, as it knows about him. I found
 that it had been industriously circulated that Garrison was a Socinian & in that place nothing
 that could be said of him, could have murdered his influence more than this.

The day of the meeting came & I resolved to say nothing of the difficulties until forced
 to by Stuart or some of his friends. I talked for something like an hour on the great change
 wrought, within a few years, in public sentiment, with respect to the subject of Slavery, the great interests
 to our country, to the cause & to the world, dependent & upon the existence of our Society & winding up
 with an appeal &c. when one of the disorganizers wished to know how much the woman's rights
 question & no-government theory contributed to depress us. This opened an opportunity for me to
 go into the subject. Thompson by some remarks gave the com. to understand where they might find
 him & Remond made some very good remarks. Stuart ~~said~~, notwithstanding the new and Sappington
 which had been introduced the subject really had but one side. That the Society which I repre-
 sented was entirely unworthy their confidence and support, that it was any thing but an ab-
 lition Society, & that the Am. & F. of S. S. was the Am. Society. That the colored people almost to a
 man were with Zappan etc. etc. & begged the com. to have another meeting to hear and continue our
 statements, which was granted. The com. with but one or two exceptions sym pathizing with him.
 The next day the female com. convened to hear statements from me, when Stuart thrust himself
 in & reiterated the old stereotyped objections. The subject being thus opened, Stuart Thompson Remond &
 myself continued the discussion for better than three hours. Thompson acquitted himself at this
 meeting most manfully. He talked like an old organized abolitionist. Some of the women, who could hear
 Garrison & his coadjutors traduced by Stuart, were exceedingly horrified when I exposed the duplicity and
 treachery of the Neworganizers, & would beg me to desist, as it was so painful to hear such good

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as the Committee of the N. E. S. are, using all their power to crush ~~him~~ more recently the London Times has come out against his scheme threatening to devour it. It grows ^{out} of some personal considerations on the part of the Times & on the part of the A. S. Committee, from a jealousy that their influence will be made to suffer somewhat. I perceive from the last Am. & F. Reporter, that they disclaim all sympathy with Paine's scheme. I mean by this, the newly organized Committee. I look upon Aff. Civilization as a subject of great moment. If I can succeed in getting a start from a few of the influential, I shall drive into the country & endeavor to hold meetings ^{without} such an influence it is impossible to get up a meeting. In this country, very thing goes by the influence of great names. I think I shall succeed in raising something if my health permits me to labor, but I am almost disabled by the London fogs, which are so dense as will almost permit one to rest by leaning upon them. I am reduced to almost a skeleton. My cough has increased to a fearful degree. I am advised by the Medicals to quit the country for Rome as soon as possible, which I should certainly do were it possible. But this crisis, my purse forbids, & I will be satisfied let the issue be what it may. It is well I visited this country for I do not raise a farthing. No organization flourishes in the North & cannot succeed only by practical, plain & teacherous means, which I have succeeded in dispersing & hope to do more.

My time is more than occupied. My labors are incessant, add to this a large correspondence which I deem it necessary to sustain & you will not wonder that I have not written home more frequently. Besides, I have not received from any of the friends in the U. S. neither a letter paper or pamphlet, nor that solitary letter from yourself. I have received more kindness from my proselyt friends, as I have had a few letters & papers from them.

~~I shall wait then~~ I will remain in this country longer or return home according to the decision of our Board. I hope to get into the work soon but cannot predict with any degree of certainty. If I fail it will not be my fault I can assure you.

Then I fear to visit the country without making an appeal for funds, on my own responsibility, I could get up meetings without difficulty & produce an amount of influence which I cannot now do, as an appeal for funds, in this, as in all other countries, predisposes the mind to take the opposite side of the question to satisfy their conscience for not contributing. Any individual in this country, from America, that would adopt such a course would be sustained by private contributions.

I feel greatly interested with respect to our cause in the U. S. As soon as the public mind becomes somewhat subsided, as respects the political excitement, and the times become somewhat improved, I hope an attempt will be made to raise funds & lectures sent out as soon as the people can be made to listen. I wish myself now in Mass. to take hold of the work.

Mrs. Maria Weston Chapman
Boston
Massachusetts
United States.

Have been unable to do any thing with respect to the plan
write to someone looking but they within are not receiving my
communications or made replies, to Mr. Garrison, & Mr. Briggs,
I am making an attempt to have Mr. Briggs & Mr. Briggs
this country & if I succeed, which is very doubtful
that would be a fine thing, as I have as they say, been
standing - hand for of the cause for some time, & I have
been delayed by the other side to independent the U. S. &
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I trust, that there will be no great difficulty growing out of Bishop's connection with Chase in the office.
There is certainly labor enough for them to perform.

How does Bradburn and that class of abolitionists appear to feel now that the old Gen. is elected?
Will they be alienated from us, or will they unite once more & cooperate in good faith?

I am preparing an answer to Birney's scurrilous article in the Spectator. I intend to crowd in many
things that will not be very pleasing to His Honor the Judge or to his worshipful admirers for Sturge & Clark.
If I do not succeed in raising as much money as I intended I mean to raise a new organization
bottle.

I met Stanton and his wife. Stanton was as usual as a matter & I was in the house with him for more than a week
before we touched upon the division. The subject turned upon the Emancipator, & we talked upon the division for about 4 hours &
I was never so fully convinced of the iniquity of the proceedings of that Am. Com. as by this conversation. I found that
Garrison was the rock of offence with Stanton, as well as Phelps. Garrison, Garrison, Garrison and the Alpha & Omega of his argu-
ments. His wife is quite a fair little woman. Though a member of an orthodox church, she is inclined to Unitarianism.

I shall send a few papers to the Standard & come to your care for Garrison.

As you did not say any thing with respect to Henry's health, I take it for granted it is improving. You neither made
any mention of Anne, or Caroline. To Henry & Ann & Caroline & Deborah & to the whole anti Slavery household of Boston &
its vicinity, please convey my affectionate regards & believe me, truly your friend in the cause of Man's redemption.
But my health is so weak that I am not permitted to forward a more respectable looking sheet. My friends that you cannot reach.
J. A. Collins